The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor concerning it in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1978 WILLIAM GREEN, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1949 GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* VOL. 39, NO. 10

Support the RED CROSS Campaign

Voters Decreed T-H Repeal, Rep. Madden Tells Hearing

Indiana Solon Reminds Congress It Now Has 'Mandate' to Act

Washington.—Representative Ray Madden of Indiana, testifying before the House Labor Committee as it began its public hearings on the administration bill to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act, called upon Congress to carry out the mandate of the last election.

That mandate, he said, was for the prompt repeal of the iniquitous statute foisted upon the country by the 80th Congress.

Mr. Madden, a former member of the House Labor Committee, said the Taft-Hartley Act was "rammed down our throats in 1947 as a "secret session" when the Republicans, then dominant in Congress, limited consideration of the far-reaching measure to 4 hours.

Asked to comment on the Taft-Hartley Act, the Indiana legislator said:

"When you study the hidden booby traps in it, you find that it is all bad."

As the hearings opened on the House side of the Capitol, labor men were waiting for the Thomas bill to be brought out on the floor of the upper chamber. The Senate Labor Committee has concluded its hearings and has reported the bill without changes. Because of the filibuster fight in progress in the Senate, it was uncertain when debate on the Thomas bill would get under way.

As the House Labor Committee's hearings opened, Fred A. Hartley, Jr., former Congressman from New Jersey and coauthor of the Taft-Hartley Act, was entangled in a new connection with the phony organization called itself the Tool Owners Union.

Representative Cleveland M. Bailey, Democrat, of West Virginia recalled in a recent announcement that Mr. Hartley had become president of the Tool Owners Union. It was quoted from a declaration of the Tool Owners Union as it appeared in the New York Stock Exchange Department, in which he said that the Tool Owners Union had been described as follows:

"No more fascistic organization has yet come before the official attention of this board."

Representative Peter W. Rodino, Jr., who was elected to the seat formerly held by Hartley, charged that the latter had declined to run for re-election last November because he realized that he could not win by standing on record the Taft-Hartley legislative monstrosity.

Representative Daniel J. Flood of Pennsylvania opposed the non-Communist affidavit section of the Taft-Hartley Act since "the result was to make second-class citizenship for organized labor."

Testimony at the opening hearing was limited to members of Congress.

Union Label Week To Open Sept. 3

Washington.—The Union Label Trades Department announced that Union Label Week this year has been designated for the period from Sept. 3 through Sept. 10. The date was been approved by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor and the executive board of the Union Label Trades Department. It was set during this time so that it would include Labor Day and also the Sunday previous to Labor Day which is usually devoted to labor services in many churches throughout America.

Union Label Week was held May 10-16, last year, which date was decided with the Union Industries Show in Minneapolis in mind, therefore, concluded that the week of Labor Day was better since there will be less confusion in these two outstanding events.

In their respective localities all officials and members of the American Federation of Labor, union label leagues and women's auxiliaries can now devote their entire activities to a demonstration for the labels, shop cards and union buttons. There will be nationwide broadcasts containing messages from President Green, Secretary-Treasurer I. M. Ornburn of the Union Label Trades Department, and other AFL officials.

This year marks the fortieth birthday of the Union Label Trades Department which was chartered by the American Federation of Labor on April 2, 1909, when Samuel Gompers was president. It will be fitting during the Union Label Week of 1949 to mark the fortieth anniversary of the label trades and pay tribute to its founders.

BIRTHDAY PAY WON IN UNION CONTRACT

Philadelphia.— Here's something new in collective bargaining achievements: Under a contract just negotiated between the Teamsters and the Keystone Brass and Rubber Company, each of the firm's 60 employes will receive a holiday with pay on his birthday—or double pay if he chooses to work rather than celebrate.

Sol Bloom, Loyal Friend Of Labor, Is Dead at 78

Washington.—Organized labor joined the nation in mourning the death of Congressman Sol Bloom of New York, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

A member of the House since 1923, Congressman Bloom had stood solidly with labor throughout his long career. His voting record over the years was a perfect one from the standpoint of labor.

Sol Bloom sold newspapers as a child in Peoria, Ill., and later, when his family moved to Chicago, he found a job in a broad factory working the treadle on a lathe for $1.25 a week. On his 78th birthday, he said:

"I can still make a brush."

President Truman paid tribute to Congressman Bloom at Key West, Fla., where the Chief Executive is vacationing. Other tributes came from the late Congressman's colleagues in Washington.

In recognition of his splendid voting record on bills of interest to organized labor, the AFL Non-Partisan Committee in New York City always gave Congressman Bloom its wholehearted endorsement. The Congressman's death deeply saddened the confidence reposed in him by the members of AFL unions.

Chicago Electricians' Easter Sale Gives Workers Wealth of Bargains

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Federation of Labor
Weekly News Service

Chicago.—Without waiting for retail sales figures, the Chicago Federation's biggest local union is running an Easter clothing sale of its own—for the union's 14,000 members and their families.

Local 1031, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (AFL), has acquired a $100,000 stock of men's and boys' clothing, which are offered at wholesale prices in the union hall.

Begun Friday, March 4, the sale will be conducted in a home office with 19 girls and 8 men (all Local 1031 members) temporarily employed serving as clerks and wrappers. Business hours are 9 A.M. to 9 P.M.

A pair of gloves, 51 gauge, 15 denier, worth $1.39 on the open market in Chicago's loop, are quoted from a declaration of the New York Stock Exchange Department, in which he said that the Tool Owners Union had been described as follows:

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HATTERS UNION IS HAILED FOR ITS LABEL ACTIVITY

Washington.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin praised the efforts of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers Union, AFL, in promoting a series of radio programs for a business-labor project promoting the union label as a symbol of better craftsmanship and higher production standards.

The Secretary took part in formal presentation ceremonies in Chicago on the first of a series of transcriptions of the series was given him by Thomas H. Kennedy, international vice president of the union.

"The union is so willingly participated in this series deserve special commendation," Secretary said. Finkelstein told him the Hatters Union was the pioneer in the use of radio to promote the union label."

PHILLY CAB DRIVERS WIN HIGHER PAY AND PENSION

Philadelphia.—A new contract embodying a pension and welfare plan, more liberal vacations and increased wages has been ratified and approved by some 3,500 AFL unionized cab drivers here.

Charles Pirolli, president of the AFL Taxicab Drivers Union, said that the drivers voted better than 3-to-1 for the contract.

The drivers continue to get 45 percent of gross fares. Mr. Pirolli said, however, they are to receive 7¢ cents of a 10-cent telephone charge when the company wants the State Public Utilities Commission to approve a proposed 2-cent boost in fare each cab ordered by telephone.

ALTMEYER ASKS STRONGER OLD-AGE RELIEF PROGRAM

Washington.—Congress was assured that the "new system" of home relief was contemplated as the administration's answer to its case for liberalization of the public assistance program, including federal aid to states for general relief of the destitute.

Arthur J. Altmeyer, Social Security Commissioner, told the House Ways and Means Committee that direct assistance to the needy should become "less and less important" once the federal old age and survivors insurance system had been strengthened into "a really first line of defense against destitution."

M. F. Darling, president and business manager of Local 1031, said the union will abandon the clothing market as soon as prices come down, as it abandoned the food market when prices became reasonable.

One of the youngest unions in the city, chartered in 1937, Local 1031 never has called a strike or work stoppage of any kind during its short history, but its members earn the highest pay in the electrical and radio industry. Assembly girls, the lowest-paid classification, work $1.20 an hour and office help. Highest paid job classification is chauffeur-truck and tool makers, who earn $2.15 per hour.

Probably no union ever had larger attendance at monthly meetings—usually 2,000 to 3,000.

The monthly meetings usually are short, dispensed immediately by dancing to a 10-piece orchestra, with accompanying floor show of top entertainers. The union bar is then opened, with mixed drinks retailing for 25 cents, and the city's biggest 10-cent glass of beer available to members.

Entertainment programs include a wrestling show every Thursday night and a boxing show every Friday night. The televised. The union owns its building, a modern four-story structure formerly occupied by the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Darling is believed to be the only union agent in the country who carries a mobile telephone unit in his car. He needs it, to service the 40 units of his local in all sections of the city.

High Court Backs Wisconsin Statute Tougher Than T-H

Washington.—The Supreme Court ruled that the AFL may not control ing their rights when they impose even tougher curbs on union security contracts than are provided in the Taft-Hartley Act.

Splitting 7 to 2, the highest tribunal held that states are free to regulate union security agreements as they see fit, except that they "shall not impose a policy inconsistent with national policy."

The case in which the Supreme Court handed down the ruling today involved an appeal by the Algoma Plywood and Veneer Co. of Wisconsin, the National Labor Relations Board charged, had set up the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, AFL, as a company agent for its employes. The company and union then signed a union shop contract.

The workman failed to pay his Union dues, and was fired under the Wisconsin Employment Relations Board order then reinstated. It also ordered the company to disregard the union shop contract, unless two-thirds of its workers voted for such an arrangement.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court approved the state board order and the company appealed. It was the high court's job to rule upheld that today.

The board based its order on a Wisconsin law which requires that unions file with the state board that must vote for maintenance of membership, before they can enter in agreement. The Taft-Hartley Act requires such authorization only on majority of the workers anyone.

Justice Felix Frankfurter, for the majority that both the Taft-Hartley Act and Wisconsin law provide that "the states are left free to pursue their own labor relations policies in the matter of union security agreements."

Justice Black wrote a dissent, in which Justice Douglas joined.

Justice Black said that the section of the Taft-Hartley Act dealing with the history of administrative interpretation "is a hodge-podge of what it means gives it."

"I think a change in the interpretation should not be made at this late date," he said. "That is a job for the law," he said.

Mr. Justice Jackson said also that Algoma Co. in 1942 was "compelled" by the National War Labor Board to sign a contract which included a maintenance of membership provision which at the time was forbidden by Wisconsin law.

"Thus, fired at from one side by the state and by the other side by the powerful federal agencies," Justice Black said, "the company was forced to flee to one side or the other. Neither side offered a safe sanctuary."

Petitioner not unreasonably found itself "caught between the United States' milk."

U. S. Pay Law Out For Work Abroad

Washington.—Time and one-half for overtime does not apply for work done abroad, even though it is performed for the United States project, the said the Supreme Court in a decision extending to longshoremen working on the state department's overseas construction program.

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Probe of Slave Labor Voted As UN Upholds AFL's S

Green Urges AFL Members To Support Red Cross Drive

Washington.—Once again the American Federation of Labor and its millions of members are giving their support to the annual campaign for funds conducted by the American Red Cross.

In a statement, AFL President William Green said:

"With each succeeding year the record of humanitarian service rendered by the American Red Cross grows in magnitude and value. Its mission has been aptly described in the brief statement that "the Red Cross was founded as a channel through which compassion might find neighborly expression in the relief of human suffering—across the street, across the nation, across the world."

"In its broad field of activity, the Red Cross reaches into the homes of millions of people each year, and no one can voucher when his home, his family, or his friends will be in need of its merciful ministrations or assistance.

"In the last fiscal year the American Red Cross activities covered disaster relief operations which assisted over 200,000 persons, and it should be remembered that Red Cross disaster aid is given on the basis of need, not loans.

"Moreover, it is a gift, not a loan, and is given on an individual family basis. Over $17,000,000 in relief was given to veterans and their families during the past fiscal year; more than 1,700,000 veterans and their families were aided; direct service was given to 700,000 men in uniform; and a half-million Junior Red Cross boxes were shipped to needy children overseas.

"These are typical services, but by no means a complete story of the Red Cross activities. Each year the Red Cross makes an appeal for funds necessary to carry on this splendid humanitarian work, and it is a privilege to contribute to so worthy a cause. Each and every one of us should avail ourselves of the opportunity to support the Red Cross which contacts the lives of so many of us in time of need.

"I urge every member of the American Federation of Labor, and all Americans, to respond generously to the 1949 appeal of the American Red Cross."

McDevitt Urges Gov. Duff to Revive Unemployment Compensation Council

Harrisburg, Pa.—James L. McDevitt, president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, has called on James H. Duff to appoint, without further delay, a Council on Jobless Compensation to advise the Bureau of Employment and Unemployment Compensation on proposed legislation to administrators, no matter how impartial, cannot take the place of a permanent group of representatives from the Unemployment Compensation Council, McDevitt said. The Duff administration has been "derelict in far-reaching matters" in failing to appoint a non-partisan council to advise it, and may rely on biased advice of lobby groups instead of a scientific appraisal of an impartial council."

Most states have advisory councils functioning in accordance with the federal-state law requirements governing the state-federal bureaus. These councils have been of great value to the administrators and the state legislature in the states through-out the nation.

The Pennsylvania federation has proposed unemployment compensation legislation and the payment of sick and disability benefits, dependency benefits and increases in benefit rates and duration.

Americanism Is Preferred in Contest Staged by Workers Education Bureau

New York.—Five college students, three of them veterans, picked "American" as the term they prefer to live under and collected nearly $1,000 in prizes in the "Why I Am an American Contest" conducted among U. S. colleges by the Workers Education Bureau of the AFL.

"Americanism" however, was the choice of the first prize winner, Jack R. Conrad of the University of Atlanta, Ga.

"Isms are moribund or dead," wrote Mr. Conrad. "The world of today—our ——— is a world of 'ismatic islands.' Survival demands new organization."

The second prize went to Herman Wouk of Brooklyn College, New York City.

Mr. Wouk's contribution pointed out, "has been fertile soil for dogmas preached by Lenny Bobbie Burns" in her autobiography, "Tomorrow Is Beautiful."

BUTTON WORKERS WIN RAISE

Philadelphia.—A 42 weekly wage increase has been won by workers in Philadelphia's coverall, button, buckle and belt industry. The increase resulted from negotiations between the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board of Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, AFL, and the agreement also provides a broad and comprehensive program of insurance benefits to meet the special problems of the day.

The 35-man executive board, representing AFL Auto Workers unions, conducted three days of negotiating sessions all last week, adjourning Saturday.

Heading the list of resolutions was one attacking the Truman doctrine aid of laying off workers because of industry's need for materials for production in productive capacity. The resolution pointed out that during the second World War, many corporations readily admitted that older workers who were enlisted to serve the war production front were equal to the younger workers.

TEAMSTERS MAKE GAINS

Chicago.—Local 712, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, achieved important advances in new contracts with the Dealers Transport Company and the Arctic Auto Carriers Transport Company.

ILO Will Investigate; AFL Proposal Wins Despite Soviets

Lake Success, N. Y.—The special investigation machinery forced labor recommended by the American Federation of Labor won overwhelming approval in the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The action of the council was a great victory for the AFL and for the cause of humanity throughout the world.

Although reports of the existence of forced labor in Soviet Russia had been heard periodically for years, it was not until the AFL submitted detailed memoranda and affidavits attesting to slavery in Russia that the United Nations was impelled to act. The decision to order an investigation was by a vote of 14 to 3.

Accepted by the AFL, the Economic and Social Council directed the International Labor Organization to carry on the actual investigation on behalf of the United Nations. The ILO is a specialized agency of the UN.

The Council voted its approval of an amended AFL resolution, however, instructing the ILO to conduct a probe into the given charges and requesting UN Secretary-General Trygve Lie to ask the Soviet and its satellite governments whether and to what extent they will cooperate.

Russia voted against the resolution and was joined by Byelo-Russia and Poland. It was doubted that Russia and its satellites will cooperate in the charges against Russia are true, as the Soviets claim.

Completing action on the issue that had been before the council at this and two previous sessions, the council expressed its belief that an impartial survey should be made of the slave labor charges, which were brought against the Soviet bloc by the American Federation of Labor.

The council specifically agreed to ask the International Labor Organization a voluminous memoranda submitted by the AFL, including the series of case histories for former prisoners in the labor camps, to aid in the study.

It was decided to transmit copies of the AFL documents and affidavits of the commission to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in connection with the drafting of an international covenant on human rights.

The approved resolution requests the ILO to communicate with the governments against whom charges of forced labor have been made and to inquire in what manner and to what extent they will be prepared to cooperate in an impartial inquiry into the causes of forced labor in their countries."

The AFL's recent presentation of detailed documents in regard to slave labor in Soviet Russia was made by the AFL delegation to the meeting of the Economic and Social Council.

The Soviet bloc gave two reasons why workers could not research:

"First," she said, "for reasons of security. Second, because forced labor exists in such a widespread way, the Soviet Union is the first labor force of the world may become affected to the detriment of the progress achieved so far."

The AFL has told the council that it could not ascertain the facts at Soviet labor camps. It is the view of the large number of reports of forced labor in Russia and of the investigation seems to be highly justified.

Without mentioning Soviet Russia directly, Lie said:

"If governments should think that the reports are exaggerated, the best and only way to prove it is the opening of the doors to an investigation."

LEADERS TO DISCUSS THOMAS BILL ON AIR

Washington.—AFL President William Green and CIO President Philip Murray will be heard March 18 in special radio discussion of the Thomas bill repealing the Taft-Hartley Act. The broadcast will be over the coast-to-coast network of the American Broadcasting Co. from 10:30 to 11:30 p.m. (EST).

Other participants in the discussion program will be Senator Elbert Thomas, Democrat, Utah, chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, and Senator Robert Taft, Republican member of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Lodge, CIO secretary.

The program will be very timely and important one. Mr. Green and the other participants will explain the Thomas bill, which has just been reported favorably by the Senate Labor Committee following extended hearings.

All trade unionists are urged to tune in. Tell your friends and neighbors of this important broadcast. Consult your local newspaper for the exact time when this program will be heard in your community.

Green Urges Boycott Of Slave Labor Products

Washington.—The AFL Executive Council has called upon all affiliated unions to refuse to handle products made by slave labor in Soviet Russia and its satellite countries.

The boycott action was taken by the council at its meeting here last week.

The council declared that the Soviet Union has refused to cooperate with the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in connection with the drafting of an international covenant on human rights.

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JUNTA'S ANTI-LABOR ACTS IN VENEZUELA PROTESTED

Washington.—AFL President William Green registered a vehement protest at oppressive anti-labor actions taken by the military junta in Venezuela.

In a cablegram addressed to Lieut. Col. Carlos Delgado Chalbaud of the Junta at Caracas, Mr. Green said:

"On behalf of 6,000,000 members of the American Federation of Labor, I am registering a most emphatic protest over the dissolution of the Venezuelan Confederation of Labor by the military junta in control of the Caracas government and the arrest called for the preservation of labor's agreement.

"We urge upon you to rescind the decree dissolving the labor and mentioned labor groups, stop persecution of democratic trade union leaders and immediately set free all trade unionists who have been arrested."

ILO VOTES INQUIRY OF CURBS ON UNIONS

Geneva.—The governing body of the International Labor Organization voted unanimously to consider complaints of the anti-union movement in various countries" at its next session.

The immediate reason for the action was the arrest of one of the labor members of the governing body last week and the elimination of the unions in Venezuela be examined by the council, thereby indicating that certain Venezuelans might confer with the ILO conventions to which Venezuela is a party.

While many members had Venezuela and other South American countries in mind in approving the policy of evolution, others anticipate the possibility that the position of trade unions in the Soviet-ized Eastern European States may come up for discussion.

Director General David Morse in proposing action, said he would assemble information on the subject for submission to the next session. He did not confine his project to Venezuela.

JUNTA OPPOSES LABOR PARTY

Caracas.—The governing military junta has announced that it will not permit the formation of a labor party.

Spokesmen for the junta declared that the labor party would be "a political party of the left."

UNION SOLD AMERICANISM

Washington.—Organized labor has sold Americanism to its members, Representative Wood (R., Ind.) charged.

Wood, a member of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, said that "labor has been sold a bill of goods that it is the only group in the country that is interested in Americanism."

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SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1949 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Support the RED CROSS Campaign

AFL Urges 2-Year Extension of Rent Law With Changes to Improve Effectiveness

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor called for the extension of rent control for a 2-year period and proposed a series of changes in existing legislation to tighten up its provisions and provide for more effective administration of the law.

In testimony before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, Henle, acting secretary of the AFL Housing Committee, declared that surveys conducted by Federal and local agencies demonstrated conclusively the need for continued vigorous application of a rent control program.

He referred to a survey conducted by the Office of the Housing Expediter which revealed that rents on 37,000 decontrolled housing units in 1,000 cities and towns have soared to a figure 60 percent above similar units which are still under control. This is an indication of what might happen to all rents if the existing law were in any way weakened, Henle declared.

The AFL spokesman emphasized the unique importance of the rent item in a worker's budget. He said:

"A family's rent is the price it must pay for housing but the character and duties of that housing as a commodity vary greatly from other commodities which the family normally buys. For example, if the price of a particular food item increases, substitutes in one form or another are generally available. But there is no available substitute for housing in occupation of like at the present time there are very few substitutes for any particular housing accommodations because of the extreme shortage. Similarly, if the price of clothing increases, the family can at least postpone the purchase of new clothes and force its existing supply to last a longer period of time. However, a rent increase applies immediately to the existing housing accommodations occupied by the family; there is no way to postpone its impact."

Henle maintained that the AFL recommendations for a stronger rent control law are in no way inconsistent with the need to secure a fair administration of the law. Urging adequate protection for both tenants and landlords, he urged the appointment of a rent administration official in each defense rental area to assist each in their problems.

"While the rent control law must be fair to landlord and tenant alike," he said, "there is no reason for making it a guarantee of landlords' profits. Undoubtedly there are dwelling units in existence which for one reason or another have never been profitable in the past, and to the extent that the rent control law should be the instrumentality that owners of the

Other proposed changes in the rent law favored by the AFL include more effective regulation to prevent the attenuation of controls to those units, increased penalties for violations, and exemption has seriously weakened the present program; a study of the status and composition of the local advisory rent boards; discontinuance of the so-called "voluntary" listing procedure in the District of Columbia under the federal law.

AFL Urges Greater Role For U. S. Labor In the Conduct of International Affairs

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor called upon the State Department to accord the American labor movement greater representation in international affairs and recommended a 6-point program as a basis for United States foreign policy.

President William Green led a delegation of AFL leaders who conferred with Secretary of State Dean Acheson and presented the AFL recommendations.

The AFL group, representing its International Labor Relations Committee, urged Secretary Acheson to create a new post in the State Department the function of which should be to keep the U. S. governmental leaders fully aware of labor's activities in international affairs and to facilitate the cooperation of the United States with the independent democratic elements of labor on the world scene in behalf of democracy and peace.

The proposal also urged the inclusion of labor advisors who represent the American trade union movement in official U. S. delegations to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations.

A statement submitted by the AFL leaders emphasized that the United States must not thereby ward off the blows and defeat the aims of all forms of totalitarianism, but that we must enable the European ERP nations "to rebuild so soundly as to defy the Communists and become a magnet of attraction, an economic example and a political hope for the oppressed and depressed behind the iron curtain."

To accomplish this purpose the AFL program proposed:

1. That the North Atlantic defense pact (which it endorsed) encompass every democratic country including Italy;

2. That supporters of German militarism and fascism be excluded from trusteeship in the Ruhr iron and steel industry while bonafide free German trade unions be accorded representation in Ruhr trusteeship;

3. That the United States delegation to the United Nations support the AFL purpose to make it a crime against humanity for any government to organize or support Fifth column activities in a country with which it is at peace.

4. That Washington disapprove all proposals to lend military aid or private financial loans "to the totalitarian dictatorship now terrorizing Spain (Spain)";

5. The AFL program advocated that United States opposition to totalitarian crimes and prosecutions be regarded in its policy toward South America, and especially toward Venezuela;

6. The program referred to recent visits to French Indo-China and other Communist leaders as to their policy of supporting the Soviet Union in the event of war.

The Thomas-Taglialti threats, it was said, "may well foreshadow a plan of Russian imperialism to invade Western Europe in the near future," and the Communist declarations constituted "a brazen notice to the victims of the Fifth Soviet Column is already at hand to stab in the back the free world when the Communist hordes from the east move down upon them."

Labor Movement Held Key In Reconstructing Europe

Paris.—European labor holds "the key" to whether Europe will "remain free or be submerged by Soviet totalitarianism."

Irving Brown, AFL European Representative, made the assertion recently in an enthusiastic address at the American Club in Brussels.

He said the European labor movement would determine "in the last analysis" whether the reconstruction of Western Europe can succeed and whether America's "vast economic aid will achieve its goals." He added:

"For whoever gains the soul of European labor can gain all other objectives."

Defining trade unions here as the "major battleground" for the East-West struggle, Brown said the Soviet Union "has complemented by her unofficial diplomatic arm in the form of the world Communist movement the cold war on the political and economic plane of the Soviet policy is the declaration of war against the Marshall plan."

To counteract Russian efforts, Brown urged that "above everything else," American labor "must demonstrate and hold its leadership in the field of expansion of living standards." He warned that a crisis in the U. S. economy involving unemployment and depression "would be disastrous to American policy abroad and to the efforts of our democratic friends in the trade union movement in Europe." Furthermore, he said, "it would present to the Russians the opportunity which they believe must inevitably come because of the inherent instability of capitalism."

He also called for continuous "exposure" of the Stalin regime "not only as undemocratic but as a slave regime"—and for "extension of the counter-blockade to Germany and the end of the blockade of Berlin is lifted."

Brown recommended that the "role and influence" of American trade unions be brought home to the European trade unionists through appointment of labor attaches to embassies abroad. This, he asserted, "means something more than labor attaches, labor advisors or labor divisions in government agencies . . ."

'Slope Line' Airport Lighting Hit; Pilots Union Terms System Confusing

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent of AFL Weekly News Service

Chicago.—David L. Behncke, president of the Air Line Pilots Association, AFL, announced opposition of his union of 8,000 commercial fliers to the "slope-line" system of approach lighting proposed for the Chicago Municipal Airport.

The Civil Aeronautics Administration plans to install a system of approach line lighting at the Chicago airfield by July 1. During that period the CAA intends to set up the system also in New York, Detroit, Buffalo, Cleveland, Akron, Canton and several other large airports.

Oscar E. Hewitt, public works commissioner of Chicago, favors the system. The cost of installation at the Chicago port, $40,000, would be paid by the federal government.

The AFL pilots, in their annual convention, approved a report which found the slope-line system confusing. The union recommended an alternate system of single-row lights for airport approaches.

The slope-line system was tried out experimentally at the Indianapolis, Ind., airport, and was recommended by a Washington group of airport experts, the Air Force Navy Civil Committee on Visual Aids to Air Navigation.

Approach lighting is designed to help a pilot find his way to the airport through fog, rain and darkness, allowing him to change from instrument flying to contact flying as he becomes down through the "soup" at an altitude possibly as low as 200 feet.

The approach lights would extend from the end of the runway for 2,000 feet, so he could find his way if he came out of the soup more than a half-mile from the field.

The slope-line system provides rows of lights, each consisting of a series of lamps in a straight line on a frame. The frames are set 100 feet apart in each of two rows. The rows converge toward the runway, like a funnel.

Each frame of lamps is tilted and aimed in such a way that a pilot who makes a correct approach will find himself between two continuous lines of light as he approaches the runway at an agle of 45 degrees from the horizontal.

Cory Pearson, who helped develop the system, claims it is about foolproof. But E. A. Cutrell, a member of the Air Line Pilots Association, and winner of the Octave Chanute award, declared it is somewhat of an aviation research, opposed it, after a study of the system, and also has lighting systems.

He cites pilots who met the slope-line system at the Indianapolis airport experimentally at the Indianapolis, the double rows too closely resembling the lights on the alternate lamps on both sides of the street.

"We will not accept a system of approach lights that has more than one row of adequate lights for directional guidance in the approach to the runway," said Behncke, because of the inherent confusion which results from systems composed of more than a single row of approach lights leading to the runway."

The union recommends a single row of lights, installed on a straight or curved line of the runway, visible from an angle of 30 degrees on either side of the approach path. The lights should be of a type instantly identifiable and recognizable as airport approach lights.

PRESSMEN, PUBLISHERS AGREE ON NEW CONTRACT

Portland, Ore.—Spokesmen for the Portland Publishers Association and Local 58 of the International Web Pressmen's Union announced that they had reached a basis for settlement of their strike that halted publication of the Portland Oregonian" and "The Oregon Journal" since Feb. 18.

The agreement, effective as of Jan. 1, 1949, calls for an increase of $2.25 a week in pay and a third week of paid vacation. A statement said that it also embraces an alteration in the operation of the presses when color is run on black units."

$250,000 For Jewish Relief Given by ILGWU Members

New York.—David Dubinsky, president of the AFL's International Ladies Garment Workers Union, turned over $250,000 on behalf of the union to Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman of the 1949 national campaign of the United Jewish Appeal, and Monroe Goldstein, president of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, for the union offices here.

The $250,000 union contribution, which exceeded the union's 1948 gift by $100,000, was announced at the 1949 campaign kick-off dinner of the United Jewish Appeal to raise $50,000,000 nationally in 12 days.

"Last year, when the United Jewish Appeal raised $150,000,000," said Mr. Dubinsky, "we pledged ourselves to raise $150,000 to the United Jewish Appeal. This year, the United Jewish Appeal must have $250,000,000, and we are fulfilling our pledge. We have increased, and we proudly increase our gift in proportion."

Participating in the ceremony in Mr. Dubinsky's office were Israel Feinberg, a vice president of ILGWU and general manager of the New York Coat Joint Board, and Julius Hochman also a vice president of the union and general manager of the New York Dress Joint Board.

In acknowledging the gift on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal, Mr. Morgenthau described the efforts of the United Jewish Appeal agencies to equip refugees in several displaced camps of Europe in 1948 and to help the DPs build a new life in Israel and America. He lauded the union for its aid at this time, particularly in view of the urgent need for cash.

Emphasizing the determination of the members of his union to give help to people in distress, regardless of race, creed or color, Mr. Dubinsky declared: "This gift has special significance to us because it does not stop here as a direct contribution from our members. We are also setting up a free-will collection raised in the New York shops of our industry, money donated by our workers—regardless of racial origin or religious faith—out of the goodness of their hearts, for a great humanitarian cause.

"From our relief fund we have given just as freely and liberally to other philanthropic and community causes, in our country and abroad.

"We make this contribution to the United Jewish Appeal because we are aware that our members are eager to participate in a worldwide effort to help bring the last DPs out of their camps this year; to help these stricken men, women and children who have already waited too long to find a new future for themselves in the free countries of the world.

"The members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union are again demonstrating that they know the obligation towards their fellow men that rests upon their shoulders as trade unionists and as citizens. We hope that all Americans will join the members of our union in this noble cause."

Mediators Seek Quick Settlement Of Rail Dispute

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Chicago.—The prolonged battle of 16 unions to obtain a 5-day, 40-hour week for 1,000,000 nonoperating railroad workers is a step closer to final settlement.

Spokesmen for the unions and the nation's railroads agreed to be bound by rulings of a board of federal mediators on certain issues involving application of the Dec. 17 recommendation of President Truman's fact-finding board.

Still other issues remain in dispute, however, and the unions have refused to arbitrate them. Principal issue is the fact-finding board's recommendation to continue the 6-day week for yardmasters. The unions are holding out for a five-day week for the yard masters, as for everybody else.

The mediation now hearing the issues in Chicago's Union Station are the same men who composed the Presidential fact-finding board. The Dec. 17 report to the President recommended a 7-cent hourly wage increase, retroactive to last October and a 40-hour work week to begin Sept. 1 with no reduction in the total wages paid for 48 hours.

The board's report gave rise to a new dispute over the procedure for time-and-a-half pay for overtime. The board members met again and issued an interpretation of their own previous report.

Each side claimed the interpretation favored its position in the new dispute. Spokesmen for both sides refused once more to be drawn into table, negotiated further, and finally decided to submit a list of specific issues back to the board members for further clarification.

The boards first report made it clear that "overtime shall not be paid at premium pay for work in excess of 40 hours and 48 hours a week, for nearly all employes.

The question then arose as to whether some employes could be worked 40 hours a week plus 7 or 7 days without payment of premium pay.

In its clarifying interpretation, the board, sitting as mediators, declared it meant employes should have two days rest each week and that the days of should be consecutive.

After the interpretation was issued, the unions and carriers still were in dispute over the ability of the railroads to stagger the days so that the days off would be consecutive in each case.

Also disputed was the extent of the carriers' right to work Saturdays and Sundays the consecutive days off in the 7-day-week workers.

The unions and carriers, after further clarification, are expected again to submit to the board those issues which cannot be settled. The board's ruling in each instance will be binding.

The board's original report with respect to the 7-day-week workers is for clarification and was specifically requested by the unions.

The board had recommended the 7-day-week workers get a 40-hour week with a 10-cent hourly raise instead of the 5-cent New York City unions will attempt further negotiations with the carriers' labor relations committee, according to George Leighty, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Telegraphers, who is principal spokesman for the 16 unions' negotiating committee.

Blacksmiths Join Union Label Dept.

Washington.—I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer, Union Label Trades Department, announced that the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers and Helpers recently affiliated with that department of the American Federation of Labor. There are some 50 national and international unions now associated with the department which publishes the Union Label Trades Directory and service buttons of these various affiliates.

Ornburn said that the affiliation designate the products and services of blacksmiths "shall carry the American Federation of Labor is growing and gaining strength every day," Ornburn said Mr. Ornburn; "and I believe it is due to the fact that there is an increasing demand not only by American consumers for union label goods and union services but also because employers who have collective bargaining agreements with AFL unions want the benefit of displaying the union label on their products.

"Other industries designate their products by the stamp or button. I believe that those manufacturers and other employers who recognize the union label as a valuable trade-mark should be glad to give full patronage of all members of labor, considering it a privilege to lend their friends throughout America."

AUSTRALIA FIRST TO OK ILO SEAMEN'S HOURS RULE

Lake Success.—The Australian government became the first to ratify an international convention governing the wages and hours of seamen, according to the United Nations International Labor Organization.

The convention, drawn up in Seattle in 1946, requires 2 ratifications to become effective. Five must come from countries moving not less than 1,000,000 gross tons of shipping.

House Unit OK's 75-Cent Minimum Wage; Fails to Extend Law to Farm Laborers

Washington.—On a final vote of 15 to 6 the House Education and Labor Committee approved a proposed bill empowering under the same act.

The proposed new retail exemption reads as follows: "Any employe of a retail or service establishment whose employer had a total annual volume of sales or serving of not more than $500,000 during the preceding calendar year." Added to that in the bill are the administrator's present interpretations of what is a retail establishment.

The law now exempts "any employe engaged in any retail or service establishment the greater part of whose selling or servicing is in intrastate commerce."

Other changes added to the exempt provisions are employes engaged in the delivery of newspapers to the consumer and employes of telegraph stations doing business of less than $500 a month.

A seasonal exemption from the maximum hours section for employes handling and processing perishable fruits and vegetables was changed to allow the Secretary of Labor to extend this to a maximum of 20 weeks in his discretion. The present maximum is 14 weeks.

Amendments would be brought under the minimum-wage section but not the maximum-hours section.

The bill carries the "regular rate of pay" for purposes of determining overtime pay and avoiding "overtime on overtime" penalties.

Administration of the act would be coordinated with the enforcement of the Secretary of Labor. He would get authority to sue employers for wages withheld from employes in violation of the act. The bill also gives him rule-making powers which he does not have now.

Greater Business Activity Seen For New York State

By ARNOLD REICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—Although there has been a noticeable drop in employment and an equally noticeable drop in consumer purchasing in the metropolitan and up-state area, confidence among businessmen and trade union officials, waiting in a few weeks at most, has swayed the analyses which seem to indicate that a sharp pickup is inevitable by late spring.

A survey by the AFL News Service around the state discloses that the "distribution" cycle is the one because it believes that its wasting-machine is overpriced at the present time and is, therefore, unsalable. It will only be sold at a lower price. This trend will have to be watched closely by labor, due to its apparent lift in their dollars purchasing power at the expense of quality.

The second significant factor around the state is that employers have also begun dismissing the marginal worker and are not replacing him. This is another cycle factor, which may or may not be as decisive as employers claim, is that Federal Policy is still encouraging exports and imports of goods that it is preventing businessmen from doing any real planning ahead.

The late spring pickup is particularly expected in the New York building construction trades which have been hard hit by the current unemployment—not large at all—after years of a tight labor market among many of the building trades, due to the cessation of construction contracts.

The overall picture is such that the big industrial concerns have not been hit badly at all. It is the feeder plants, the old wartime subcontracting so common in the New York City area, that are hit, as well as the small, consumer-good producers who have been hurt.

However, the New York area is better than in up-state cities because there is greater diversification of industry in the metropolis and therefore greater opportunities of employment. Railroad Telegraphers, who is principal spokesman for the 16 unions' negotiating committee.

The big industry in New York City is clothing, men's and women's. The needle trades are returning to the normal seasonality, as its economists say, meaning the prewar pattern of employment. For the last 6 years, there has been year-round employment in the needle trades. However, greater competition among manufacturers plus a buyers strike has led to layoffs.

In Rochester, the up-state city where men's clothing is manufactured, several plants are on a skip-week. Lower priced and medium-priced garment trades, like the women's garment industry, have followed the pattern of employment has been more visible because the unusually late spring has spread out the peak of the spring season.

One labor economist said that with the inevitable increase in efficiency—more output per worker—industry cannot absorb more workers unless production rises. But he added that the economy has always risen to the occasion of construction contracts.

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WAGE SETTLEMENT ENDS AFL TEAMSTERS' STRIKE

Newark, N. J.—A 16-week strike of production and distribution workers in 5 major ice cream plants in New Jersey ended when Milk Drivers and Local 680 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, AFL, signed a compromise wage offer. Terms of the wage compromise were not disclosed but both sides said that a 2-year contract was signed.

Eleven companies were involved in the original dispute but 6 firms had signed agreements since Nov. 16 when the strike began, Carl Cacich, spokesman, which produce and distribute about 40 per cent of the ice cream sold in retail stores in northern New Jersey, including Cacich, Reconcer Brands, Philadelphia Dairy and Abbotts.

UNION WELFARE PROGRAM

New York.—Locals 40 and 362, Iron Workers, have won a welfare program covering life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment insurance, weekly accident and sickness benefits and surgical benefits in an agreement with the Allied Metal Industries, Inc., Carrier of the insurance is the Union Mutual Insurance Company, of which Matthew Woll is president.

SUMMER SCHOOL PLANNED BY AFL'S AUTO WORKERS

Milwaukee.—The United Automobile Workers (AFL) announced that its summer school will open June 19 and continue for 6 weeks.

Courses offered will include union labor relations, parliamentary law, study and advanced job evaluation. The latest courses will be a follow-up to the basic job evaluation classes held during the 1947 and 1948 institutes. The wide appeal of the school and the ever-growing interest in labor education are expected to result in a record attendance this summer.

The UAW-AFL has engaged the top labor instructors in the country for the summer school to give the students every opportunity for complete, well-rounded training in the latest developments in the field of labor.

WAGE HIKE OBTAINED

Peru, Ind.—Wage increases of 10 and 15 cents an hour have been obtained by plant employes of the light, sewage and water departments of Peru, members of Local 1030, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes.